Let us take for an example the Maharajah of Bikanir, that most loyal ally of the British and a popular figure in England. It is true that the ruler deserves praise for having rescued land from the ever-encroaching desert, but the following facts have also to be considered.

The Legislative Assembly consists of twenty-seven nominated members and eighteen elected members, twelve representing municipalities, three Sardars, three Zemindars. Out of fifteen municipalities, ten are wholly nominated and the remaining five are overwhelmingly so. The Assembly is purely advisory. But this Assembly would seem to be a mere show-piece; on one occasion it transacted all the business of a year in two days. It provided only ;£ 15,000 for education and a sum of over £17,000 for palace expenses. The percentage of revenue spent on education comes to I *2 per cent., w?hile the cost of primary education is about 0-2 per cent. There is one school for ever}* 135 villages in the state, or for every 1,175 miles. The total education costs come to about 3^ annas per head. The percentage of expenditure on medical relief is i -5 per cent, of the total revenue. There are in all twenty-eight hospitals and dispensaries, and these include those specially reserved for railway and canal workers. Under this head there is also expenditure on the royal family.

There are 500 miles of railway, but, despite the scorching sun and sands, there are no shelters for passengers at stations and an inadequate water-supply. The staff is horribly underpaid and both fares and freight charges are higher than on neighbouring lines. In an area of 23,500 square miles, the total mileage of roads is 200, and the greater part of these is reserved for royal use only. There is a heavy customs-duty and everyone who enters the state is subjected to both a search of person and belongings.

As to taxation, it takes many forms. There is a kind of poll tax. This varies from Rs.io per annum for confectioners